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DON REED

MR. REED: Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Don Reed. I'm a business agent for (inaudible) the State of Nevada. I was formally out at Yucca Mountain on the project when it started out there during the experimental tunnel, and I left there in '97 when basically the tunnel itself was done and the studies have been ongoing since that time. I have heard a lot of things tonight and it's opened my eyes to a lot of things. I know there's a lot of concerns here.

1 I think that it's imminent that the repository's going to go there. I know there's a lot of people, you know, that are against it in that respect, but that's the only place we have. I think it's imminent that it's going to go there for various reasons. Number one is I feel in my heart, because I've worked with these people, you've got the most highly skilled and qualified work force in the world to build that repository there and make it as safe as it possibly can be, number one.

Number two, you've got an area there that's already had all the nuclear testing and everything done there and I think that it's viable for that reason because it's out by itself and it's not going to interfere with anybody. Also, from the point of view for safety for terrorism and stuff, it's protected. It's on a government installation, the accessibility there is very, very limited and I can assure you by working at the test site for stringent rules and regulations that they follow from the time you go to work till the time you leave that place.

2 Safety, it's the safest. I've been in the construction business thirty years and it is by far and away the safest place I have ever worked in my life. I think they go overboard they make it so safe. It's overkill as far as I'm concerned. When we were doing this project for that exploratory tunnel, we had five different sets of inspectors from the NRC to OSHA to everybody that inspected work to ensure that it was properly done. I mean, they didn't leave any leaf unturned. I mean, they checked everything and they checked it rigidly and it was documented. Documentation. If you don't like the document, don't go to work at the test site because it's documented. That's how concerned they are about that.

3 They wanted all of the facts and figures and they got them, believe me, and as far as the economy goes, I think a lot of the people fail to realize here the economy that that place is going to have. When that test site starts, if that is anything close to what it's supposed to be, we're talking about 2,800 people that it's probably going to employ. We're not talking about minimum wage jobs. We're talking about jobs of people making a thousand dollars a week plus. That's going to really put some real money into the economy in the state for tax purposes and everything else.

4 A lot of these people don't realize that what it's going to contribute to the infrastructure as far as what's going to be donated by the government to the school districts, to the surrounding counties. We're talking about a lot of money that people aren't addressing here as far as schools, infrastructure fare roads. What's that going to do? That's going to create jobs for people, also.

5 To me, I don't -- don't think it's -- we're in a no lose situation as far as that goes. I understand that there's some concerns about the safety of it and, you know, that should be that way as far as I'm concerned, but what I'm saying is I think that the -- the construction of the test site, what you're going to gain from is going to far exceed -- the asset is going to far exceed the liability of the test site itself due to all of the studies that's been done and the inability -- you know yourself as far as I do it's going to be built there.

6 We're talking about concerns with nuclear waste and all this other stuff. Like Mr. Vasconi said earlier, out at Nellis Air Force Base, you're talking about the largest nuclear stockpile in the world. Why aren't people concerned about Hawaii? Why aren't they concerned about an explosion out there?

You know, this is things that we're not being realistic about some of these issues. I think everybody's concerned, but I still think they need to look at the hard cold facts, and a lot of the information that's been published, if a lot of the people would read a lot of this information that's been distributed, they would have the answers to a lot of their concerns right off the bat because there has been an extensive amount of literature published on this fact, and I would encourage any of you, if you have any questions whatsoever, you never been to the test site, take to that Yucca Mountain tour. I think they offer that tour out there.

If you have questions about a lot of the things that you do have, you go out and you take that tour and you address the people when you go on that tour, and I think when you leave there, that your mind will be changed as far as a lot of concerns you have. It will be alleviated if nothing else. Thank you.